



For immediate release
March 5, 2001

Contact: Kristi Jamison
(573) 526-2423

Missouri Department of
Economic Development
P.O. Box 1157
Jefferson City, Missouri
65102-1157
Media Information and Research Site:
www.ecodev.state.mo.us/ded/

Rapid Response Team activated to aid Rawlings employees

AVA, Mo. -- The state Rapid Response Team has been activated to help workers that will be dislocated by layoffs at Rawlings in Ava, Mo.

The Rapid Response Team, composed of representatives from the Department of Economic Development's (DED) Division of Workforce Development (DWD), the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, the Workforce Investment Board in the South Central region responds to the needs of workers who have lost or will lose their jobs by providing special training and re-employment services.

Joseph L. Driskill, director of the Department of Economic Development, has directed DWD to assist Rawlings employees by offering Missouri Career Center services.

"When layoffs occur, it is important that Missourians know where they can turn for assistance," said DED Director Joseph L. Driskill. "I encourage these individuals to take advantage of the free services offered by the state to help them find new employment opportunities."

The Rapid Response Team and the local Missouri Career Center will provide immediate services to workers needing assistance, including assessment and testing, career counseling and resume writing, interviewing skills, job search methods, on-the-job training and tuition assistance for vocational training or education.

Representatives from DWD and the Workforce Investment Board in the South Central region are working with the company to ensure that workers have access to these free services. Meetings will be held with these individuals at 2:30 and 4 p.m., Tuesday, March 6, at the company's facility to explain how these services can help them find a new job.

The sporting goods company will lay off approximately 40 employees.

"Missouri employees have earned a good reputation for their productivity and work ethic, and we invite employers in this region of the state that are in need of employees to consider hiring these individuals," said Driskill.

Employers interested in hiring Rawlings workers can call **1-800-877-8698**.

Since 1983 -- when Missouri's dislocated worker program was established -- more than 100,000 dislocated workers have participated in the program. Approximately 80 percent of the people assisted by the program find new employment.

Laid-off workers interested in the training and re-employment services offered through the Rapid Response Team can call **DWD at 1-800-877-8698 or the Workforce Investment Board in the South Central region at 417/256-6147**.